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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 005575

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SUBJECT: JORDANIAN COMMENTS ON JULY 18-19 IRAQ DONOR'S  
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 127710

Classified By: DAVID HALE, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I., REASONS: 1.4 (B &D)

1. (SBU) Embassy passed reftel demarche on July 10 to Ghaith Zureikat, Director of the U.S., South America, and Australia Bilateral Cooperation Division at the Ministry of Planning and Bilateral Cooperation. (Note: The Ministry has lead responsibility within the GOJ for organizing the Jordan-hosted IRFFI conference and for consultation with IRFFI members and Iraq donors generally. End Note). Deputy Secretary Zoellick also discussed the forthcoming IRFFI conference with King Abdullah, and expressed great appreciation for Jordan's role as conference host, during a July 10 meeting (septel). Emboff followed up with Zureikat on July 12 concerning GOJ plans for the conference and views on its significance.

IRAQ Reconstruction "Vital" to Jordan  
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2. (C) Zureikat expressed thanks for U.S. support of the conference, and noted that Jordan regards the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) as a key element in progress towards achievement of stability and prosperity in Iraq. He added that such stability is vital to the future political stability and economic development of the Middle East as a whole, and said that Jordan is extremely pleased to be hosting the IRFFI conference and is looking forward to broad participation by the donor community.

3. (SBU) While acknowledging that this will not be a "pledging" conference, Zureikat said that the GOJ is concerned that international assistance to the reconstruction of Iraq is flagging, and hopes that the conference will provide new impetus to resist or reverse this trend. He added that Jordan will continue to provide in-kind assistance to Iraq reconstruction, including training and other assistance in the sectors of banking, medicine, water, transportation, and security.

Security Issues  
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4. (C) While noting that security logistics details are still being worked out, Zureikat said that security at the IRFFI conference will be organized in a similar manner to that provided at the World Economic Forum (WEF) last May (Note: the WEF was also held at the Dead Sea Conference Center. End Note). In this regard, he said that outside access to the Dead Sea hotels will be limited to authorized personnel and IRFFI delegates.

Possible Attendance by King Abdullah  
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5. (C) While the overall IRFFI agenda is still being developed, Zureikat noted that a welcome dinner hosted by Minister of Planning Suhair al-Ali will be held for IRFFI delegates at the Conference Center, starting at 1900 on Sunday, on July 17. He added that King Abdullah will return from a visit to South Africa some time on July 17, and will "probably" attend either this reception or a still-to-be-organized event to coincide with the plenary on July 18. Zureikat stressed that the issue of the King's

attendance is not fully resolved, and that a final decision  
might  
not be made before July 15.  
HALE